Message Text

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TOSEC 968

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP- (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: FAHMI STATEMENT ON TALKS

FOLLOWING IS UPI RELEASE:

QUOTE: BULLETIN PRECEDE --ASWAN, EGYPT (UPI) -- EGYPT ANNOUNCED SATURDAY NIGHT THE FAILURE OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S MISSION TO MEDIATE A SECOND STAGE DISENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND SAID THE UNITED STATES STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE IS DEAD.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMI AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN ASWAN, WHERE KISSINGER HAD MADE SEVERAL SHUTTLE TRIPS TO NEGOTIATE WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT.

FAHMI SAID EGYPT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ARABS, NOW WILL CALL FOR THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE TO BE RECONVENED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

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FAHMI SAID: "THE EFFORTS OF DR. KISSINGER CAME TO AN

END BECAUSE OF THE POSITION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INSISTING ON CERTAIN DEMANDS WHICH EGYPT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING CATEGORICALLY REFUSED" -- AN APPARENT REFERENCE

TO ISRAEL'S QUEST FOR AN EGYPTIAN DECLARATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY.

"THE STEP BY STEP PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES NOW HAS COME TO AN END FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MISSION BECAUSE OF THE ISRAELI POSITION." FAHMI SAID.

"THE NEXT COURSE TO PROCEED ALONG IS TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE," FAHMI SAID.

"EGYPT, TOGETHER WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, WILL CONSULT AND IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WILL FORMALLY REQUEST THE TWO CO-SPONSORS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE (THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION) TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY," THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID.

FAHMI ACCUSED ISRAEL OF NEGOTIATING IN BAD FAITH AND SAID EGYPT HOLDS IT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS.

"FROM THE VERY BEGINNING IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INJECTED POINTS WHICH ARE NOT RELATED TO A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH IS A MILITARY AGREEMENT BUT RATHER TO A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT.

"THIS EGYPT REJECTED FROM THE OUTSET AND CONTINUES TO REJECT AND WILL IN FUTURE REJECT," FAHMI SAID. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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